

Be wise! Let your i-MAGI-nation work and worship!

The traditional *12 days of Christmas* runs from 25th December to 5th January, the eve of the great Feast of Epiphany. These days we're obliged to keep the feast not on 6th January but the nearest Sunday; when more people will be present than would turn out on a mid-winter's evening. Epiphany celebrates the event described in Matthew's gospel Chapter 2. The Magi (wise men) NOT kings arrive in Bethlehem, 'from the east'; indicating they are not Jewish. There were possibly three, possibly more possibly less. It doesn't say. Only *three gifts* are mentioned. Strange visitors arrived with strange gifts for the young Jesus, by now probably a toddler, not a baby, for they go into *the house*. After this all boys in Bethlehem under the age of two years are killed by king Herod who had carefully ascertained how long the Magi had been dedicated to the task of seeking the child they believed was so special.

So, at S.John's, we do NOT place the Magi and their camels in the crib at Christmas (yet neither camels, horses are mentioned in the story; they might have walked!!). Our figures 'travel' around the Church from Christmas Day until Epiphany. By then the shepherds and sheep are cleared away and *baby* Jesus is replaced by a *child* Jesus. Sadly many people blur the whole Christmas story together and, if they don't come back after Christmas, never see the crib 'developing' over the season.

Epiphany figures stay in the crib until the *Christmastide* ends on the feast of our Lord's Baptism. On that feast we will also recall our own baptism, constituting us part of the People of Christ, his Body, his temple. Church *buildings* are 'dedicated' as meeting

places of the Church *proper* (Christ's people). A building's dedication feast is therefore the unique 'birthday' of the Church community which meets in it.

This year our Dedication feast falls on its proper date! Since 29th January 1862, S.John's has been dedicated for our use that we might be like the Magi, *wise men* (and women, and children), on a journey: *seeking Jesus Christ*, and meeting him in his *house of faith*. The Magi were dedicated to finding, in a particular place, Bethlehem, what they had long been seeking – the work of God revealed in a child; who is his Son and Saviour of all mankind.

The Magi brought gifts of Gold (for Christ as *King*), Frankincense (for Christ as *God*) and Myrrh (for Christ who would, as a sacrifice, *Die for us*). We constantly honour that sacrificial death of our now risen God and King in the Eucharist and, led by the star of *faith*, we journey together to the *eternal* house of God which we call Heaven: of which we have, as yet, often only the feeblest understanding and the odd glimpses of its glory because we're limited by our humanity and imagination.

The Magi did meet Jesus in Bethlehem which means *house of bread*. Every Sunday and each weekday we can meet the living Christ in his *house of bread*, the Eucharist; in the building *housing his people*. If you're a 'regular' please help us maintain that daily opportunity. If you're not 'regular' then do come along. Don't be a stranger or just a visitor. Come and be a part of *his* family on their common pilgrimage journey. It might be the wisest thing you'll ever do!

Fr James



The Bridge

Monthly Magazine of the Parish of Higham (S.John & S.Mary) with Merston

WORSHIP AT S.JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH.

EVERY	Morning Prayer	(said)	8.45am
SUNDAY	PARISH MASS	(sung)	9.30am
	<i>with Junior Church & Very Junior Church</i>		
	Evening Prayer	(said)	6.00pm

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: Said Mass 9.30am & Solemn Mass 7.30pm
Solemn Evening Prayer & Benediction on Sundays at 5.30pm - *as announced.*

	Monday	6.30pm	DAILY MORNING PRAYER
THE	Tuesday	7.30pm	Each day at 9am
DAILY	Wednesday	9.30am	* * * * *
MASS	Thursday	7.30pm	DAILY EVENING PRAYER
TIMES	Friday	9.30am	Each day at 6pm
	Saturday	9.30am	(<i>except Tue. & Thur. at 7pm</i>)

PARISH PRIEST

The Rev'd. Canon James F. Southward
Telephone 01634-717360
E.mail saintjohn.higham@yahoo.co.uk

The Vicarage, Hermitage Rd.,
Higham, Kent, ME3 7NE.
* * * * *

PLEASE NOTE: FATHER JAMES IS NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY
Fr Allan is usually available on that day if you need to talk to a priest.

Marriages, Banns of Marriage, Baptism, Confirmation and other general enquiries:

Father James is usually available, in Church, for initial enquiries about these on

TUESDAYS 8.10pm and SATURDAYS 10.10am

It is always advisable to telephone and make an appointment in each case.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession and absolution)

is available on Fridays at 6.30pm or by appointment with either of the priests.

Information / requests relating to funerals, ministry to the sick and dying,
Holy Communion at home or in hospital should be given to Father James.

In an emergency please contact him at any time or, if he is not available, the
Pastoral Assistant or a Churchwarden (details below).

Evening calls only for * numbers

HON. ASSISTANT PRIEST	Canon Allan Buik	17 Hermitage Rd., Higham	Tel: 01474-823824
PARISH READER	Mr Simon Walker	11 St Johns Road Higham	Tel: 07794 523179*
~ THE PARISH ~	Mrs Valerie Laurens	12 Villa Road, Higham	Tel: 01474-823423
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Helen Walker	11 St John's Road Higham	Tel: 07528-472686*

CHURCH HALL MANAGER - Mrs Julie Healey- Tel: 01474-822008*

January 2017 at S.John's, Higham

Calendar and Mass Intentions

MASS) SUNDAYS WEEK) Mon. 6.30pm; Tu. & Th., 7.30pm;
TIMES) Sung Mass 9.30am DAYS) Wed, Fri. & Sat. 9.30am.

EXCEPT on SUNDAY 1st JAN and SUNDAY 29th JAN – 10am only

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
SUN	1 ST	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD 10AM	(S) THE PARISH
Mon	2nd	Ss. Basil Bp. & Gregory Nazianzen <i>Teachers</i>	(m) The Ecumenical Patriarch
Tue	3rd	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	(m) SSM Sisters (Walsingham)
Wed	4th	Feria of Christmastide	Catechumens & Confirmands
Th.	5th	S.Roger of Todi <i>Religious</i>	(m) Retired Clergy
Fri	6th	Feria of Christmastide	Messianic Jews
Sat	7th	Feria of Christmastide	Engaged couples
SUN	8 TH	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	9th	The Baptism of the Lord	(F) Renewal of baptismal call
Christmas-tide ends today - Ordinary Time begins tomorrow			
Tue	10th	Feria (Ord. Week 1)	Church Schools
Wed	11th	Feria	The sick & disabled
Th.	12th	Feria	Higham Congregationalists
Fri.	13th	S.Hilary of Poitier ; Bishop, Teacher	(m) Forward-in-Faith
Sat	14th	Feria <i>OF OUR LADY</i>	(v) Walsingham Shrine
SUN	15 TH	2ND ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	16th	Feria (Ord. Week 2) <i>MASS OF REQUIEM</i>	(v) +RIP's & Anniversaries
Tue	17th	S.Antony of Egypt; Hermit	(m) Hermits & Enclosed Orders
The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity is from 18th to 25th January inclusively			
Wed	18th	Feria <i>MASS FOR UNITY</i>	(v) For Christian Unity
Th.	19th	Feria	Protestant/Reformed Christians
Fri	20th	Feria	Anglican Tradition Churches
Sat	21st	S.Agnes; <i>Virgin Martyr</i>	(m) All Persecuted Christians
SUN	22 ND	3RD ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	23rd	Feria	Orthodox / Oriental Churches
Tue	24th	S.Francis de Sales; Bishop, Teacher	(m) Roman Catholic Churches
Wed	25 TH	The Conversion of S.Paul	(f) All Christian missionaries
The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity ends on 25th January			
Th.	26th	Ss Timothy & Titus; <i>Missionary Bishops</i>	(m) The Society Bishops
Fri.	27th	Feria (Ord. Week 3)	The Archdeacon
Sat	28th	S.Thomas Aquinas; Priest, Teacher	(m) Our Servers & Euch'c Mins.
SUN	29 TH	THE DEDICATION FEAST	(+) THE PARISH
29/Jan/1862		OF S.JOHN'S CHURCH @ 10AM	
Mon	30th	Feria (Ord. Week 4)	Our Church membership
Tue	31st	S.John Bosco; Priest, Catechist	(m) Our Children's Workers

KEY: (+) Holy Day of Obligation; (S) Solemnity; (f) Feast; (m) Memoria

February 2017 at S.John's, Higham

Calendar and Mass Intentions

MASS) SUNDAYS WEEK) Mon. 6.30pm; Tu. & Th., 7.30pm;
TIMES) Sung Mass 9.30am DAYS) Wed, Fri. & Sat. 9.30am.

EXCEPT: THURS 2nd FEB 7.30pm = Full Solemn Mass & MON 13th Mass at 9.30am

DAY	DATE	CELEBRATION	INTENTION
Wed	1st	Feria (Ord. Week 4)	Agnostics & Atheists
TH	2ND	<i>The Blessing of Light, Procession & Solemn Mass for:</i> The Presentation of The Lord	(F) Our Parish evangelism
Fri	3rd	S.Lawrence <i>Archbishop</i>	(m) Archbishop of Canterbury
Sat	4th	Feria	February General Synod
SUN	5TH	5TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	6th	The Japanese Martyrs	(m) H.M. the Queen
<i>65th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession - 6 /2 /1952</i>			
Tue	7th	Feria (Ord. Week 5)	The lapsed & indifferent
Wed	8th	S.Josephine Bakhita, <i>Religious</i>	(m) Victims of slavery
Th.	9th	Feria	Higham Congregationalists
Fri	10th	S.Scholastica <i>Religious</i>	(m) SSM Sisters <i>Walsingham</i>
Sat	11th	Our Lady of Lourdes	(m) The sick & disabled
SUN	12TH	6TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	13th	Feria (Ord. Week 6) 9.30am instead	Bp. Norman's Clergy meeting
Tue	14th	Ss. Cyril & Methodius <i>Missionaries</i>	(f) Eastern Europe Churches
Wed	15th	Feria	Blind & Sight impaired
Th.	16th	Feria <i>monthly Requiem mass</i>	(v) RIP's & Anniversaries
Fri	17th	Feria	Blind & Sight impaired
Sat	18 th	Feria <i>of Our Lady</i>	(v) Walsingham
SUN	19TH	7TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	20th	Feria	The 'disturbed'
Tue	21st	Feria	Community volunteers
Wed	22nd	The Chair of S.Peter	(F) Pope Francis
Th.	23rd	S.Polycarp <i>Martyr, Bishop</i>	(m) Forward-in-Faith
Fri	24th	Feria	The divorced & separated
Sat	25th	Feria	Church children's work
SUN	26TH	8TH ORDINARY SUNDAY	(+) THE PARISH
Mon	27th	Feria	Penitents & Confessors
Tue	28th	Feria /SHROVE TUE. (<i>Soc. founded 28/2/1855</i>)	Society of the Holy Cross

KEY: (+) Day of Obligation; (f) Feast; (m) Memoria; (v) Votive mass

THE JANUARY REQUIEM

is on MONDAY 16th January 2017 at 6.30pm

*The recently departed, and those named below will be prayed for at this Requiem.
Those named below are remembered on the Sunday before and the actual date itself.*

1 st	Mary Frances Edmonds Arthur Sidney Joblin Sylvia Anne Fowler Frank William John Heasman	15 th	Percy John Dams <i>PRIEST</i> * Jack Berry
2 nd	'Betty' (Elizb.Margaret) Steer 'Kelly' (Robert Hilton) Bradish	17 th	Herbert Clement Scutts John Ernest Henry Parkinson
3 rd	Gladys Millgate	18 th	Frank Dockrell Andrew Jones
4 th	Alice Frances West	21 st	Eileen Starkey Evelyn Alice Gray
5 th	Sybil Batchelor John Etherton		<u>Jocelyn</u> Howard James <u>Gordon</u> Aspin
6 th	Albert Charles Utton Nora Hotter Winifred Beatrice Avery	24 th	Robert Beard
7 th	George Glendenning Barbara Frances Taylor	26 th	Mary Southward Florence Rose Oake Caroline Ann Grix
8 th	Leslie Alfred Holden	29 th	<i>Deceased members and benefactors of S.John's</i>
9 th	Frederick Albert Edward Watson Margaret Kidney	30 th	Edward Stuart Talbot <i>BISHOP</i> Gerald Gordon Hodson Doreen Rose Taylor
10 th	Isobel Clatworthy	31 st	Marie Romula Jenkins 'Bill' (Cecil) Baker
11 th	Valerie Elsie Howard		
12 th	Katherine Elliott		
14 th	Albert William Haselden		

*PLEASE NOTE: The names of those who have been deceased
more than 20 years have been removed (except for * previous Incumbents)*

*They will be remembered IF someone attends this requiem mass
AND requests their inclusion in the prayers.*

LORD, BY YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION,
YOU HAVE SET US FREE
YOU ARE THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.

** = This priest was a former Vicar of Higham*

THE FEBRUARY REQUIEM

is on THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2017 at 7.30pm

*The recently departed, and those named below will be prayed for at this Requiem.
Those named below are remembered on the Sunday before and the actual date itself.*

2 nd	Ena Mary Choules		Neil Andrew Haselden
6 th	Melville W.H. George		George Edward Avery
7 th	Kenneth Asper	24 th	Donald Wilfred John Kent
8 th	Reginald Norman Barrow		Kevin Dwane Moore
11 th	Joan Beatrice Clark		Gladys Mary Christmas
13 th	Florence Evelyn Austen		Alice May (Betty) Heasman
	Roy Edward Whyman	25 th	Joyce Haskins
	Bryan John Jones		James Leslie Britten
16 th	Mabel Dorothy Lambkin		Selina <u>Mary</u> Jarrett
	Peggy Margaret Phoebe Williamson	26 th	May Helena Roberts
17 th	James Douglas Abernethy		Kathleen Alice Rolfe
	'Bill' Dingle		May Tetley
19 th	Cecil Newman <i>PRIEST</i>	27 th	Ellen Carruthers
21 st	Michael Peter Beek <i>PRIEST*</i>		Gladys 'Jean' Richardson
22 nd	Richard Henry Holland		Gladys Emily Trotter
	Jessie Elizabeth Creamer		Peter Francis Cook
	Violet Frances Elsie Welham	29 th	Alice Buttery
23 rd	Franz Schläger		

*PLEASE NOTE: The names of those who have been deceased
more than 20 years have been removed (except for * previous Incumbents)*

*They will be remembered IF someone attends this requiem mass
AND requests their inclusion in the prayers.*

DYING YOU DESTROYED OUR DEATH.
RISING YOU RESTORED OUR LIFE.
LORD JESUS, COME IN GLORY!

~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES A DAY following the readings used at Daily Mass
in Church - even if you can't be there. Choose one or both readings.

There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

SUN - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD *JAN. 1ST*

Numbers 6.22-27

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 2.16-21

M 1 John 2.22-28 John 1.19-28

T 1 John 2.29-3.6 John 1.29-34

W 1 John 3.7-10 John 1.35-42

Th 1 John 3.11-21 John 1.43-51

F 1 John 5.5-13 Mark 1.6-11

S 1 John 5.14-21 John 2.1-11

SUN - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD *JAN 8TH*

Isaiah 60.1-6

Ephesians 3.2-3,5-6

Matthew 2.1-12

M Baptism of the Lord *Jan. 9th*

Christmas tide ends

Isaiah 42.1-7 or Acts 10.34-38

Matthew 3.13-17

Ordinary Time Week 1

T Hebrews 2.5-12 Mark 1.21-28

W Hebrews 2.14-18 Mark 1.29-39

Th Hebrews 3.7-14 Mark 1.40-45

F Hebrews 4.1-5,11 Mark 2.1-12

S Hebrews 4.12-16 Mark 2.13-17

2ND ORDINARY SUNDAY *JAN 15TH*

Isaiah 49.3-6

1 Corinthians 1.1-3

John 1.29-34

M Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 2.18-22

T Hebrews 6.10-20 Mark 2.23-28

W Hebrews 7.1-3,15-17 Mark 3.1-6

Th Hebrews 7.25-8.6 Mark 3.7-12

F Hebrews 8.6-13 Mark 3.13-19

S Hebrews 9.2-3,11-14 Mark 3.20-21

3RD ORDINARY SUNDAY *JAN 22ND*

Isaiah 8.23-9.3

1 Corinthians 1.10-13,17

Matthew 4.12-23

M Hebrews 9.15,24-28 Mark 3.22-30

T Hebrews 10.1-10 Mark 3.31-35

W **CONVERSION OF S. PAUL** *JAN. 25TH*

Acts 9.1-22 or 22.3-16 Mark 16.15-18

Th *Ss Timothy & Titus* *Jan 26th*

2 Tim 1.1-8 or Titus 1.1-5 Lk 10.1-9

F Hebrews 10.32-39 Mark 4.26-34

S Hebrews 11.1-2,8-19 Mark 4.35-41

SUNDAY - DEDICATION FEAST *JAN. 29TH*

of the Parish Church of S. John

(29th Jan. 1862)

Ezekiel 47.1-2,8-9,12

1 Corinthians 3.9-11,16-17

John 2.13-22

Ordinary Week 4

M Hebrews 11.32-40 Mark 5.1-20

T Hebrews 12.1-4 Mark 5.21-43

End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Opening Prayer' or this 'Prayer after Reading Scripture'

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

~ DAILY BIBLE READINGS ~

ONLY A FEW MINUTES A DAY following the readings used at Daily Mass
in Church - even if you can't be there. Choose one or both readings.

There are three readings for Sundays and special holy days.

ORDINARY TIME - WEEK 4

W Hebrews 12.4-7,11-15 Mark 6.1-6

T^h CANDLEMASS FEB.2nd

Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

Malachi 3.1-4 Luke 2.22-40

F Hebrews 13.1-8 Mark 6.14-29

S Hebrews 13.15-21 Mark 6.30-34

5TH ORDINARY SUNDAY

FEB 5TH

Isaiah 58.7-10

1 Corinthians 2.1-5

Matthew 5.13-16

M Genesis 1.1-19 Mark 6.53-56

T Genesis 1.20-2.4a Mark 7.1-13

W Genesis 2.4b-9,15-17 Mark 7.14-23

T Genesis 2.18-25 Mark 7.24-30

F Genesis 3.1-8 Mark 7.31-37

S Genesis 3.9-24 Mark 8.1-10

6TH ORDINARY SUNDAY

FEB 12TH

Ecclesiasticus 15.15-20

1 Corinthians 2.6-10

Matthew 5.17-37

M Genesis 4.1,15,25 Mark 8.11-13

T Ss Cyril & Methodius Feb. 14th

Acts 13.46-49 Luke 10.1-9

W Genesis 8.6,13,20-22 Mark 8.22-26

Th Genesis 9.1-13 Mark 8.27-33

F Genesis 11.1-9 Mark 8.34-9.1

S Hebrews 11.1-7 Mark 9.2-13

7TH ORDINARY SUNDAY

FEB 19TH

Leviticus 19.1-2,17-18

1 Corinthians 3.16-23

Matthew 5.38-48

M Ecclesiasticus 1.1-10 Mark 9.14-29

T Ecclesiasticus 2.1-11 Mark 9.30-37

W CHAIR OF S.PETER FEB.22nd

1 Peter 5.1-4 Matthew 16.13-19

Th Ecclesiasticus 5.1-8 Mark 9.41-50

F Ecclesiasticus 6.5-17 Mark 10.1-12n

S Ecclesiasticus 17.1-15 Mark 10.13-16T

8TH ORDINARY SUNDAY

FEB 26TH

Isaiah 49.14-15

1 Corinthians 4.1-5

Matthew 6.24-34

M Ecclesiasticus 17.24-29 Mark 10.17-27

T Ecclesiasticus 35.1-12 Mark 10.28-31

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*Not all Bible's contain the additional canonical texts. If your Bible says 'with Apocrypha' it will contain them eg. Ecclesiasticus above.*  
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End by using the Sunday Bulletin 'Opening Prayer' or this 'Prayer after Reading Scripture'

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word.

May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength in our lives.

Take us and use us to love and serve everyone in the power of the Holy Spirit,

and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HiARA November News Report.

“A Kent Christmas” was the talk given by Dr Mick Lynn at our HiARA November meeting.

Did you know that Father Christmas was originally Green? As far back as 449 Hengist and Horsa exchanged “Wassail” greetings in Thanet. Much later this developed into pouring cider on to trees to bring good luck to the orchards of Kent. In walled cities “waites” would go round singing to collect food and money for the poor. Christmas was banned by Cromwell which led to the pudding riots in Canterbury. 1895 was the year that a gang of street urchins in Gravesend were recorded singing The Seven Joys of Mary. The Victorians bought holly and ivy indoors and started to decorate their Christmas trees. Villages in Kent enacted St George and the Dragon at Christmas and Thanet was celebrated for its wooden horse festival. Father Christmas later changed into red attire as a result of the Coca Cola advertising campaign.

Our Rambles are now known as “The Catering Corps” as, in addition to their even widening areas of rambling they also provided excellent supper at the November dance. Is there no end to their talents? All our activities continue with our Craft group offering lovely gifts and cards for sale. Shall we see you at our next meeting? You will be most welcome.

Pat Oakeshott

Media and publicity.

Higham Active Retirement Association.

KENTARA THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

On Thursday October 27, 20 members of Higham Active Retirement Association joined a capacity congregation at Rochester Cathedral. This year the service had been arranged by StARA: Snodland Town Active Retirement Association, the theme they chose was a journey through life, especially appropriate as Snodland is placed on the route of the Pilgrims Way. West Malling Community Choir led the singing of hymns, together with: You Raise Me Up and Bridge Over Troubled Water. The Vicar of Snodland gave the address.

There are over 80 “ARA’s” throughout Kent with a current membership of 18,000 providing various activities, forging new and old friendships etc; for the retired and semi-retired over 50’s). For more information you are welcome to come along to the Higham group’s meetings held on each Friday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm in Higham Memorial Hall. Your first 4 visits are free which allows you to see all the various activities, arts and crafts, talks, holidays and socials on offer.

Liz Jeffery

MRS PAMELA COLE + RIP 5th October 2016.

The family of the late Pam Cole would like to thank the villagers in Higham for their kind thoughts, wishes and cards, after their sad loss of Pam and to let them know that the donations received in lieu of flowers was £676.50 which was donated to the British Heart Foundation.

We would just like to thank them for their generosity and let them know that the money has gone to a very worthy charity

Victoria Cole (Pam’s daughter-in-law)

HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL.

Councillor's met in Higham Memorial Hall on Monday November 28 at 7.30pm when Chairman, Councillor Jennifer Papadopoulos warmly welcomed the guest for the evening, Mayor of Gravesham, Councillor Greta Goatley and all those present.

Routine matters from the meeting's agenda were discussed. Parishioners' matters included a complaint about dog fouling especially in the Villa Road area. Dog waste bins are sited throughout the village and Councillors stressed the importance of them being used. Gravesham Borough will be notified and a street clean organised. At the last meeting a concern was put forward regarding delays in appointments at the Doctor's surgery. A meeting has been held with the Surgery manager and appointments are sometimes unavoidable if a specific Doctor is requested who may be on holiday or away for another reason. But, the majority of the time the appointments are available quite quickly.

There is to be a LOVE Higham Day on February 4 and more details will be released at the January meeting. The Lower Thames Crossing Steering Group had met and Dartford is being targeted with a leaflet campaign outlining alternative options.

The allotments are being discussed at a separate meeting with allotment holders and Councillors from the Allotment committee. Several allotments are overgrown and gardening would be difficult on them and another area has completely gone back to nature.

Jo Ann Raff, Leader of Higham Youth Club said the club was running well and being enjoyed, some members are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Gravesham Borough Councillor Harold Craske reported on Borough matters including the switch on of the town's Christmas lights which he

and the Mayor had had the pleasure of attending along with 500 school children. Various other events are scheduled in the run up to the 25th.

Planning applications were tabled and discussed.

Finally, Councillor Goatley thanked all the Councillors for their invitation and she said she had learned a lot in one evening on how a Parish Council works for the benefit of the community, she had enjoyed hearing about it all. Councillor Papadopoulos closed the meeting with an invitation to the Mayor and all those present to seasonal refreshments at her home. She wished everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

The next meeting is on Monday January 16 at 7.30pm Higham Memorial Hall.

HIGHAM CRIME FIGURES SEPTEMBER, 2016

<u>Type of Crime</u>	<u>Total</u>
Criminal Damage & Arson	5
Violence & Sexual Offences	6
Burglary	1
Anti-Social Behaviour	3
Vehicle Crime	1
Other Theft	2
Theft from a Person	1

Figures obtained from the Police website, www.police.uk, by K.C.C
Community Warden Steve Gray

Mobile: 07811 271256

E Mail: steve.gray@kent.gov.uk



TALK

**HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP**

SPEAKER: ANDREW ROOTES

Memorial Hall, School Lane, Higham ME3 7JL

THURSDAY JAN 19TH 2017 - 8.00PM

HIGHAM HOUSES and HOMES

The author of Higham in Old Photographs and History of Higham returns to tell us about some of the interesting dwellings in our village and the development of housing and the expansion of Higham through the years.

www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk
email: highamvillagehistory@gmail.com
telephone: 01634 718285



Find us on
Facebook

Free for Members

Visitors £3.50 (includes tea, coffee and biscuits)

www.highamvillagehistory.org.uk
email: highamvillagehistory@gmail.com
telephone: 01634 718285

HIGHAM YOUTH CLUB

As I am writing this article it is the end of November, the weather is getting a little colder and it's the start of advent and lots of people are already getting prepared for the Christmas celebrations. But by the time you read it all the joys and celebrations will have passed and it will be the start of a new year. Our dream for this year is to get the Pavilion finished and ready to be used by the youth and community in Higham. We are not that far off our goal, and hopefully will get the final plans agreed and the kitchen and toilets installed. Thanks so much to all who helped last year. We could not have done this without the support of so many.

In the past year, we saw the youth club grow and continue to be a happy and buzzing environment for young people to enjoy time with their friends. We also saw the relaunch of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme within the club and hope that our young participants all succeed in getting their bronze award by the end of this year.

We sincerely thank all the regular and occasional helpers. The club couldn't run without this invaluable support. Youth club evenings are busy, lively, noisy and great fun.

They enjoy relaxing with their friends in a safe and happy environment, away from the pressures of school and hectic lives. We have a weekly tuck shop with reasonably priced sweets, drinks and snacks which is popular.

If any Villagers would like to come along and see what happens at club sessions, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can make an appointment for you to visit.

We would also welcome anyone who wishes to volunteer at youth club. You do not need any special skills or qualifications although you may have a skill you wish to share! It is highly rewarding seeing young people having fun with their friends. We do have a safeguarding recruitment process. **Please contact me if you are interested.** We have a friendly team of volunteers who really enjoy working with the young attendees of the club.

The next clubs/activities we are hoping to launch are a gardening club which will run for a maximum of 2 hours, so if any 'green fingered' villagers would like to help us out with this please do get in touch. It would be good to pass on knowledge gained through generations to our young people.

We also hope to set up a social action/enterprise group for young people, so again, if you would like to be involved we would love to hear from you.

We will continue with our fundraising efforts for the Pavilion project and will keep everyone up to date with developments. We have tried to 'stretch' every penny raised and every minute of time donated. We have recycled as much as we can and repurposed a lot of items! We have tried to make the garden very colourful and welcoming and once the building work has been completed the interior will be just the same.

This project is for the benefit of the whole community and we are getting nearer to completion which will mean we can run clubs, activities and events for all ages.

THANK YOU TO THE VERY KIND VILLAGERS SUPPORTING US.

We welcome visitors to the Pavilion to see how it is progressing.

We are now so close to the target needed to be able to put in place the works to complete the project. We do still have some money to raise and continue to fundraise.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL YEAR AHEAD.

If anyone ever needs any further information about the youth club, please do not hesitate to get into contact with us. By text or leave a message – 07817 746097. Alternative you can email us at highamyouthclub@hotmail.co.uk.

Joanne Raff
Leader – Higham Youth Club



The Young Kent Quality Mark is based on the Assured Quality for Youth Projects and specially designed for youth organisations. It is a celebration and recognition of good practice and quality service.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The Feast of the visit of the Wise Men



Sunday, 8th January, 2017

A Holy Day of Obligation for the faithful in thanksgiving
for the revelation of the Messiah to all nations.

Morning Prayer – 8.45am

Solemn Mass - 9.30am

Evening Prayer – 6.00pm

Said Mass - 6.30pm*

*if required by the presence of any communicants

*Holy Communion may be brought to the sick and housebound
upon request to Fr James*

WHOOOSH...

With a double issue of the Parish Mag. Jan/Feb, we are being rocketed into space and time with the Feast of the Epiphany at the beginning and Lent well on its way by the end of February. This brings us to the verge of Spring when nature wakes up and snow drops in full bloom. **The Epiphany**, or shewing forth of **Christ the Saviour** is still the occasion of misunderstanding of S.Matthew's account of three wise men from the East who saw the star and **then began their long journey** to follow the star. At long last paying a courtesy visit to King Herod, where his counsellors reminded him that it was at Bethlehem would be born a ruler over Israel. The wise men were overjoyed to see the star went before them and stood at the birth place of the infant saviour. And when they arrived at the **House** where Jesus was with Mary his mother, they presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Time Scale. A pity that most cribs still have the stable with its straw and livestock still there when the wise men arrived. Since obviously then the Holy Family had moved from the emergency shelter to a house in the town (or at least a room). Herod's fury at being double-crossed by the wise men was to order the slaughter of children up to two years old. Then Joseph's dream to flee to safety, not with a new-born child by then who was surely a toddler by now and able to ride astride the donkey supported by his mother.

Moving on. The season of **Lent** begins early in February and usually approached with mixed feelings. The ancient custom of **Fasting**, is completely biblical and linked with the **Forty** days of Jesus, spent in the wilderness to prepare himself for his great work of God's plan for salvation to a not very attractive world, marred and scarred by humanity's greed, selfishness and vanity.

In an entertainment organised by a group of Oxford ordinands, one of the items was a languid soul slumped in an arm chair and singing:-

*"Can anyone tell me an original sin?
Can anyone tell me just where to begin?
Surely Adam and Eve
Had something else up their sleeve..."*

... but they hadn't and did not need to, as the story of **Adam and Eve** is a matchless explanation of **disobedience** eating the forbidden fruit (not an

apple) is the first **SIN** which is simply "**disobeying God which is the root of all sin.**"

Self-denial is not very popular until you come to the modern craze of going on a diet. Obesity is a national problem from the health point of view, so there are a cluster of **Health Clinics** costing a fortune to deprive you of food. At home smaller helpings at meal times, no fizzy drinks etc eaten or cream teas. It all a matter of saying **NO** to self and **YES** to God when you give TV a rest, with time to read, pray, visit to help an elderly neighbour, visiting an old tiresome patient in hospital and counting to 10 when greeted with the grump. "Thought you were never coming." A loving patience means counting up to 10 many times!

No new thing. Following the Old Testament Custom of fasting the Church has followed on for the last nineteen hundred years. The Book of Common Prayer, faithfully proclaiming ancient custom has a whole page of "days of fasting and abstinence, one of the contents of rules gives a lie to the assertion often heard that the Church of England started with Henry VIII. There is a temptation for those who admire the Prayer Book for its wonderful English style and cadence, a joy to listen to. That may well be. but as to its contents. "We know what it means but we don't take any notice"- it's just a pleasure to listen to the glorious flow of word." The same applies to attending Evensong at Kings College Chapel in Cambridge, an emotional mixture of hearing and singing under the matchless soaring fan-vaulting, together with the 16th century stained glass in all the windows, never vandalised at the Reformation because of its royal connections. Altogether a perfection of sight and sound, emotional perhaps rather than devotional as an act of worship.

Plumbing the depths... Daily news items are bound to include accounts of murder, theft, cheating, robbing, lies galore, shooting etc. brings a possible personal definition "I don't sin, that is what others do." I admit to a few failings, but they don't do any harm. What follows is from a sermon by Pope Gregory the Great. He lived at the time when the Roman Empire was crumbling, with hordes of barbarians sweeping across from Asia. As a Prefect of the Senate he had to deal with civic matters as well as his

guidance of the Church. He it was who sent Augustine and his monks to convert England. Pope Gregory's humility was remarkable for a man of power. In one of his homilies S.Gregory quoted the book of Ezekiel. The Lord spoke to the prophet that he was sending him to be a watchman over the house of Israel. S.Gregory's words are as follows:-

"Now a watchman always takes his place on the heights so that he can see whatever approaches from a distance so that he can help his people by taking a wide survey. These words are hard to utter for when I speak it is I myself that I am reproaching. I do not preach as I should nor does my life follows the principles I preach so inadequately. I do not deny that I am guilty for I see my torpor and my negligence. Perhaps my very recognition of my failure will bring me pardon from a sympathetic judge. When I lived in a monastery I was able to keep my tongue from idle topics and to devote my time almost continually to prayer. Since taking on my shoulders the burden of pastoral care, I have been unable to keep my mind unrecollected because I am distracted by many responsibilities.

I am forced to questioning churches and monasteries and often I must judge the lives and actions of individuals. Then I am forced to take part in civil affairs, to those who enforce the rule of law. Then I must deal with the invasion of barbarians and wolves who menace my flock. Then I must comfort them in all charity. I find my mind and understanding are literally torn to pieces with the service matters of church and civil affairs I have to deal with. I get involved in all sorts of idle chatter I would never have dreamed of.

Who am I, what kind of watchman do I make? Instead of achieving to the heights of my calling, I languish in the depths of my weakness."

Popes and Royalty do not apologise publicly. (Neither do cede to the weakness of coughing, sneezing or blowing the nose). Pope Gregory the Great's public admission of his weakness is a humility we always should copy. **The Book of Common Prayer** goes in with pretty heavy "artillery."

Before receiving Communion "we" bewail our "manifold sins and wickedness, "heartily sorry for our misdoings" "the burden of them is intolerable." Before Morning and Evening Prayers "we have erred and strayed like lost sheep" "miserable offenders." In the Litany "have mercy upon us miserable sinners." Would we like to be told by someone that our sins are abominable. I doubt if we would agree with them.

Small beginnings. As a rule we are quite ready to admit our faults and foibles such as getting angry, being greedy, telling fibs (just little ones). Gossip about other people's faults and so on, not realising that if they aren't stemmed can become anger-hatred-violence-murder. In the House of Commons there is the custom of calling individual MPs as "the right honourable member. When accusing of lying the Rt. Hon. member is accused of being "economical with the truth." So too we wrap up our faults in order to dilute them. Consider a motor tyre. If there is only a pin-prick of a puncture or a gash they both deflate the tyre. Or if there is just one loose tile on a roof it can let in the rain and cause no end of damage. **Sin** is just the same. It has an easy start but like a pin-prick or a gash in a tyre it does as much damage. **Foolish** to ignore it. S.John, in his first Epistle hit the target. **"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us: but if we confess our Sins God is righteous and just to forgive."**

Doctor's orders. If we go to the Surgery to tell that we don't feel well, the Doctor needs to know details of the symptoms. No point in refusing to give details otherwise it is not possible to prescribe a cure.

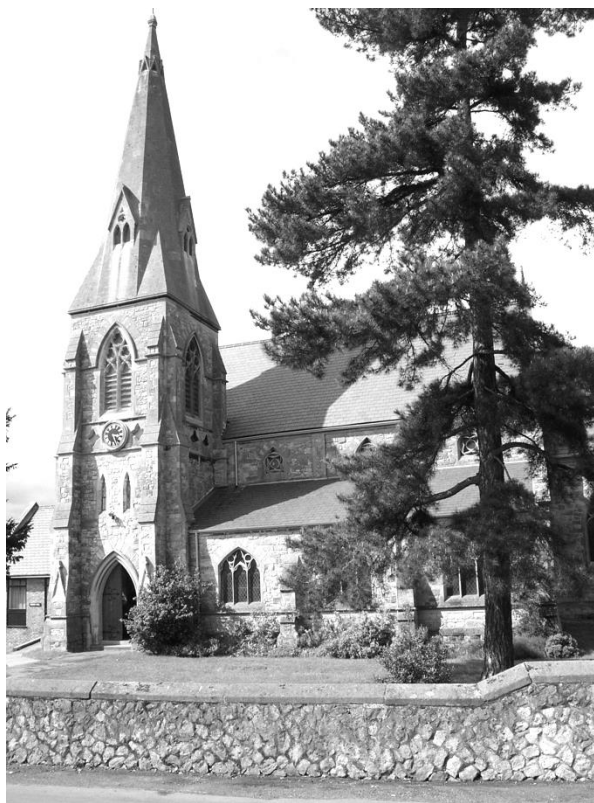
Just the same. The church is **God's surgery**. Priests are Doctors of the Soul. With authority to prescribe and give forgiveness "by God's authority given to me I absolve you." Comfort indeed that the loose tile and puncture" in our lives can be so available to all who seek it.

Fr. Roger

The Solemnity of the
DEDICATION FESTIVAL OF S. JOHN' S

Sunday, 29th January 2017

155th Anniversary of Consecration
(S. John's was consecrated on 29th January 1862)



*A Church's
Feast of Dedication
is observed annually
as a local solemnity
either on the date
itself or on the
nearest Sunday.*

SOLEMN
PARISH
MASS
at 10am

***Please note
Change of Time***

Said Mass at 6.30pm If required

*Holy Communion may be brought to the sick and housebound
upon request to Fr James.*

If you use the internet to search for anything at all and/or purchase items online then you, your friends and families could be raising money for St John's Church, Higham at no cost to yourselves.

Since February 2016 there has gradually been an increase from 2-18 people who have been taking part and by 1st December had raised a total of £125.25. The Church is able to claim Gift Aid of 25% on this money as well!

Many of the larger retailers as well as small have agreed to donate money to good causes in this way. All you have to do is

- 1 Register online as a member of Easyfundraising and indicate whether you pay income tax and therefore your support is eligible for Gift Aid. To do this type in the link below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnschurchhigham/>

and sign up for free.

- 2 **If you use a Tablet you can download the free App from the Google or App Store**

Before shopping online - go to the Easyfundraising site

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

and search for the retailer you are looking to buy from. Once you have purchased items a donation will be requested from that retailer at no cost to you. You will be able to follow the progress of money raised by you as well as the total to date.

Easysearch

When searching online if you first go to *easysearch.org.uk* – save this in your bookmarks for future use. Whenever you search and use a link with the *easylink* message beside it you will be raising 0.5 p. It may not seem much but we have already raised more than £7 with 527 searches – could you add to this? Whether

looking for a bargain, booking a holiday or short break or doing the household shopping you will be able to help.

If you would like step by step instructions as to how to get started they are available on the Church's website – stjohnsparishchurch.org.uk. Follow the link at the bottom of the homepage.

Thank you for your support.



Help out when you check out

We need you to...

- **1. Join**
Head to easyfundraising.org.uk, search for us to start raising.
- **2. Shop**
There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board, so pick the one you want and start shopping.
- **3. Raise**
After you've made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost whatsoever!



Join here:

easyfundraising.org.uk/stjohnschurchhigham

Contact webmaster.stjohns@btconnect.com for further information

As featured in: [the guardian](#) [The Telegraph](#) [Daily Mail](#) [The Independent](#) [Evening Standard](#)



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in The Temple

Commonly known as Candlemass



THURSDAY, 2nd February 2017

Morning Prayer – 9.00am Evening Prayer – 6.45pm

The Blessing of Light, Procession
and Solemn Mass – 7.30pm

bring and share celebration refreshments afterwards

Guest Preacher: The Rev'd. Ann Richardson, Area Dean of Gillingham



From the Church Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

Sophia Pauline Gadd (infant)
at 11am Baptism Liturgy
on Sunday 9th October 2016

FUNERALS - S.John's Church *followed by Committal elsewhere*

The Funeral Rite of
Florence Adelaide Best (90)
on Wednesday 21st September 2016
followed by Burial, Halfway Cemetery Sheppey

The Funeral Rite of
Pamela Cole (86)
on Monday 17th October 2016
*followed by Cremation at Vitners Park
Crematorium, Maidstone*

The Funeral Rite of
Maudie Adelaide Isabella
Gillingham (92)
on Wednesday 16th November 2016
followed by Cremation Medway Crematorium

The Funeral Mass for
Alexander David
Wainwright-Melnyk (29)
on Monday 21st November 2016
followed by Cremation Medway Crematorium
Reception of the Deceased into Church

*Reception of the Deceased into church
on Wednesday 14th December; then -*

The Funeral Mass for
Marjorie Constance Miller (99)
on Thursday 15th December 2016
followed by Cremation Medway Crematorium

FUNERALS - Crematorium only

Frederick Albert Humphrey (97)
on Wednesday 28th September 2016

Trevor Sidney Climpson (63)
on Tuesday 25th October 2016

John William Andrews (64)
on Tuesday 6th December 2016

Burial of Ashes *in S.John's Churchyard*

Nellie Mathilda Dodd (98)
on Saturday 8th October 2016

Frederick Albert Humphrey (97)
on Saturday 19th November 2016

Maudie Adelaide Isabella
Gillingham (92)
on Sunday 20th November 2016

Sponsoring Church Lamps: *The 2017 sponsorship list is available in Church* (on the bookcase by the main door). A very big 'THANK YOU' to 2016 sponsors. Lamps can be sponsored: **1) in memoriam** for the anniversary of death or what was their birthday; **2) In thanksgiving** for something - birthday, special anniversary or event taking place; **3) for a prayer intention** publically or privately expressed; **4) anything else** you can think up to sponsor them! Lamp sponsorship (£22) pays for the blue and red lamps inside the Church and the white one by the Blessed Sacrament. A special prayer lamp is also placed in the Lady Chapel with a card noting the sponsorship reason and details. **IMPORTANT - Please note** if you pay tax we can also claim 'gift aid' on sponsorship - please fill in one of the blue envelopes or ask a Churchwarden about this.

Monk(ing)

Monk: from Greek: *μοναχός*, (monachos, "single, solitary") and Latin *monachus*: is a person who practices religious asceticism, living either alone or within a community of any number of other individuals. A monk may be a person who decided to dedicate his life to serving all other living beings, or to be an ascetic who voluntarily chooses to leave mainstream society and live his life in prayer and contemplation.

The concept is ancient and can be seen in many religions and in philosophy. In the Greek language the term can apply to women, but in modern English it is mainly in use for men. The word nun is typically used for female monastics.

When returning home from school one day, at the age of eight, little did I realise the journey my request to be baptised would lead me on. Coming from a family where no one 'churched' except for funerals and a wedding this request took my mother by total surprise, and after much deliberation on her part she took my brothers and I 'to be done' (her words) and on September 23rd 1990 I became a child of God through the waters of Baptism. This perhaps isn't the beginning of the story.

While at Junior School the parish priest, one Graeme Knowles – former bishop of Sodor and Man and latterly Dean of St Pauls – used to visit weekly and take assemblies and one day I clearly remember saying to my class teacher 'I want to be like Fr Knowles when I grow up' and from then on church and vicars featured in all my drawings, stories and activities; I even celebrated 'Mass' for classmates and teddies!

So, how do you get from here to being a monk you might ask. The short answer is God. It would take more words and pages than Kate has given me to explain the details, but needless to say God was right and I am where, for the immediate future, where he wants me to be.

A name change indicates a new life, when people marry or adopt a child for example and at our Baptism we are given our Christian names when we are clothed with Christ. For me I didn't change names, but took a new name indicating a new life in Christ a new commitment to follow him.

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

WHILE VISITING ROME WITH SOME FELLOW FARMERS, SAINT FABIAN DECIDED TO VISIT A PAPAL ELECTION MEETING. WHILE STANDING IN THE BACKGROUND, OBSERVING THE DEBATES, A DOVE DESCENDED FROM THE CEILING AND LANDED ON FABIAN'S HEAD! BEING REMINDED OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, THE COUNCIL ELECTED FABIAN POPE AND HE SERVED FOR 16 PERSECUTION-FREE YEARS!!



S Fabian, whose feast day is January 20th was a layman, a farmer who became Pope. (No I have no designs on the Holy See) His name came to me in prayer after a discussion with Fr James about the pros and cons of taking a new name on being clothed novice. He said 'pray' and 'listen to God, let Him be your guide,' so as 'Fabian' was there in prayer I took his name and adopted him as my patron. It has taken some getting used to particularly when seeing it written down, but when my brothers called me it at Supper on the day of my 'clothing' it felt so extremely right – like the moment when Cinderella puts on the glass slipper – the perfect fit.

All is very well here in Community and I'm being formed and changed by prayer and spending time with and in God.

Also, I'm cooking Christmas and S. Stephen's Day lunches. Superior is taking my brother novice, me and the two junior brothers to Italy in March for fourteen days so we can foster ecumenical relations with religious communities.

I'm not sure there is much else I can write, save to say that I miss you all and pray for you daily.

With much love and affection

Br. Fabian nCR



HIGHAM

LOVE HIGHAM DAY

**4 FEBRUARY 2017
11.00AM TO 5.00PM**

AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE PAVILION
AND THE RECREATION GROUND

**WE'RE MAKING A VILLAGE PLAN
FOR HIGHAM
EVERYONE WELCOME**

COME ALONG FOR SOME FUN AND HAVE YOUR SAY,
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.LOVEHIGHAM.CO.UK

 INFORMATION@LOVEHIGHAM.CO.UK  LOVEHIGHAM  07480 518493

A Village Plan for Higham

Like many communities across the country, the Parish Council has started to work with local residents to talk about creating a Village Plan for Higham. This process is backed by the Government and we aim to work with you to write a Plan which will improve our village.

Our Village Plan will cover the important issues that will influence our village in the future – initially over the next 10 years.

The Plan will identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and show how distinctive characteristics and features can be conserved.

It will include an Action Plan with timescales and this will be monitored regularly to check on progress. The Action Plan will be updated as new ideas and issues arise. For more information go to

www.lovehigham.co.uk, email information@lovehigham.co.uk or phon 07480518493



1st March 2017 - The First Day of Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY



Said Mass & Ashing 9.30am



Solemn Mass & Ashing 7.30pm

Ash Wednesday is also a solemn day of Fasting and Abstinence
for the faithful throughout the world.

Confessions may be made after each Mass or by appointment.

Upon request to the priest concerned confessions may be made
IN PRIVATE IN THE CHURCH-OFFICE





Donation Guide 2017

Please note

All items should be in date

All items to be - longlife, tinned, dried, jar or packet.

- Tinned vegetables - potatoes, carrots, peas
- Packet Instant potato
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned meat - pies, mince and onions etc
- Rice
- Instant noodles/couscous/rice etc
- Coffee
- Pasta sauces
- Breakfast cereals, sweet biscuits & cereal bars
- Rice pudding (other tinned puddings –jam, syrup, dried fruit)
- Custard
- Spreads – jam, marmite, peanut butter
- Longlife milk, Longlife fruit juice and squash (no fridge)
- Sugar
- Toiletries, toothpaste, tooth brushes & toilet rolls,
- Nappies size 4 & 5
- Laundry tablets/washing up liquid

At this time we have enough - soup, pasta & baked beans.

THE COLLECTION BOX WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH DURING THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH FROM FRIDAY TO MONDAY

Thank You so much for your support

Gravesham Foodbank hosted by RCCG Life Start
Connections & supported by Gravesham Churches Together
Registered charity number 1135341 Registered in England & Wales
graveshamfoodbank@gmail.com www.gravesham.food



New Year, Fresh Start? Need to declutter?

Have you been meaning to clear some space in your wardrobe and drawers?

Well now is the chance to do it:-
However due to lack of storage, St. John's will gladly receive your unwanted clothes, shoes, bags or soft toys from **Sunday 29th January**

***Please note we can no longer take
DUVETS, PILLOWS, MATTRESS COVERS,
TOWELS, BEDDING (Sheets, blankets or
duvet covers/pillowcases) or CURTAINS.***

Place in a bag available from the Church or use a black sack, fill up and return at the **latest** by

Tuesday 31st January

These will be collected and in return the church will receive up to £400 a tonne.

For more information contact

Julie Healey
on 01474 822008



*The Kettle's on,
the tea brewed,
all we need is
YOU.*



**2nd May
6th June
10.30-12.30
In the Vestry Hall**

*If not you, perhaps
someone you know may need
someone to talk to, or to get out
for a few hours, then tell them*



NORTH KENT EMBROIDERERS



Today we had a sit and stitch meeting. The majority of members were stitching Christmas themed pieces – very festive with red, green, white threads, ribbons and a variety of

coloured beads. Silver and gold threads added highlights to the small cross stitch squares, which could be used as tree decorations or present tags. Another project was stitched in Hardanger on a dark green background. Although the finished pieces are very different, both are small attractive projects which could be used to decorate presents at any time of year, using your own choice of colours.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 21st January. We will be sitting and stitching - a chance to find one of our hidden away unfinished objects and take it out to complete!



Visitors are very welcome from 2pm at: The Community Room, Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BE. See www.northkentembroiders.co.uk, for information on our branch and our meeting programme, or contact 01474 324734.

VILLAGE DIARY

January 2017

Wed	4th	Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	5th	W.I. Memorial Hall
Fri	6th	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm
Sun	8th	The Epiphany of our Lord - Solemn Mass 9.30am Boot Fair - Memorial Hall
Weds	11th	Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	13th	HiARA – Activities – Memorial Hall – 1.30-4pm
Mon	16th	Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm
Wed	18th	Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	19th	Higham History Group - Memorial Hall - 8pm Speaker -Andrew Rootes Talk - Higham Houses and Homes
Fri	20th	HiARA – Activities – Memorial Hall – 1.30-4pm
Wed	25th	Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	27th	HiARA – Monthly Meeting – Memorial Hall – 2pm-4pm
Sun	29th	The Dedication Feast of St. John's Church Solemn Parish Mass 10am
Mon	30th	Higham Parish Council -Memorial Hall 7.30pm (Christmas meeting with the Mayor of Gravesham)



WISHING A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2017

to all our readers

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

VILLAGE DIARY

February 2017

Wed	1st	Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Thurs	2nd	The Blessing of Light - Solemn Mass 7.30pm W.I. Memorial Hall
Fri	3rd	HiARA - Activities - Memorial Hall - 1.30-4pm Boot Fair - Memorial Hall
Weds	8th	Rainbows & Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	10th	HiARA – Activities – Memorial Hall – 1.30-4pm
Wed	15th	Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	17th	HiARA – Activities – Memorial Hall – 1.30-4pm
Wed	22nd	Brownies - Memorial Hall - 5.30pm
Fri	24th	HiARA – Monthly Meeting – Memorial Hall – 2pm-4pm
Mon	27th	Parish Council Meeting - Memorial Hall - 7.30pm

March

Wed	1 st	Ash Wednesday Said Mass & Ashing 9.30am Solemn Mass & Ashing 7.30 pm
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CHURCH DRAW RESULTS

NOVEMBER 2016

£50	164	Mrs S. Grant
£10	073	G. Moore
£10	157	Mr. M. Broome

NEXT DRAW 26th DECEMBER

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART IN
THE CHURCH DRAW THIS YEAR. PRIZES IN 2017
WILL BE 1 x £50 and 1 x £10**